



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC DUO INDICTED FOR ID THEFT

*Audio comments from U.S. Attorney Todd Graves are available in MP3 format,
and may be downloaded from the district's Web site at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow*

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City man and woman were indicted by a federal grand jury today for conspiring to steal the identity of two individuals.

Kimberly M. Morgan, 29, and **Lanardo L. Myrick**, 33, both of Kansas City, were charged in a four-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury today in Kansas City.

Count One of the indictment alleges that between Feb. 12, 2001, and July 12, 2001, **Morgan** and **Myrick** conspired to steal confidential account information from a Citibank database and used the information to pose as Citibank account holders to apply for credit cards via the Internet.

The co-conspirators agreed to steal identification and personal financial information from a customer database at the Citibank office in Kansas City, the indictment alleges. **Morgan** had access to the identity information as a customer service representative for Citibank.

After obtaining the identity information, the indictment alleges, **Morgan** would give the information to **Myrick** who would use the information to gain access to the customers' Citibank account via the company's Internet Web site, "E-Care."

Myrick used the unauthorized access to the customers' accounts to change the customer address information to an address in the Western District of Missouri, the indictment alleges, and then placed orders to have new or replacement Citibank credit cards sent to the new addresses.

Upon obtaining the Citibank credit cards, **Morgan** and **Myrick** agreed to pose as the compromised Citibank customers while making credit card purchases and obtaining cash advances, the indictment alleges.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Morgan** and **Myrick** carried out this conspiracy on two occasions:

On Feb. 12, 2001, and Feb. 14, 2001, **Morgan** accessed a Citibank customer's account for the purpose of stealing personal identity and account information and to give the same information to **Myrick**, knowing that he intended to use the information to defraud Citibank by obtaining a credit card in the name of the customer.

On Feb. 13, 2001, and Feb. 15, 2001, **Myrick** accessed the Citibank Web site using the customer's stolen identification information and changed the customer's address information and ordered a new credit card to be delivered to the new address.

Between Feb. 13, 2001, and March 12, 2001, **Morgan** and **Myrick** used the credit cards to obtain merchandise and other things with a value of more than \$1,000.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that between Feb. 12, 2001, and Feb. 14, 2001, **Morgan** knowingly and without lawful authority transferred one or more means of identification belonging to another person with the intent to commit unlawful activity.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that between Feb. 12, 2001, and March 12, 2001, **Morgan** and **Myrick** knowingly and with intent to defraud effected financial transactions using access devices consisting of two Citibank credit cards to receive things of an aggregate value of \$1,000 or more.

Count Four of the federal indictment alleges that between Feb. 13, 2001, and Feb. 15, 2001, **Myrick** accessed a protected computer without authority in an attempt to further an intended fraud and to attempt to obtain two credit cards in the names of two Citibank customers.

"Identity theft is an emerging crime across the country," Graves said. "We have redirected our efforts to fight identity theft and we will continue to focus federal law enforcement on the challenge."

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John E. Cowles. It was investigated by the United States Secret Service and the United States Postal Inspector's Office.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow